REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-21, of which claims 15-21 remain rejected. Claim 15 has been amended as set forth above. The Applicants submit that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 15-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,634,466 ("Gruner"), or United States Patent No. 5,215,092 ("Wary"), or United States Patent No. 5,388,584 ("King"), or United States Patent No. 5,470,929 ("Cooper"), or United States Patent No. 5,738,631 ("Konstorum"), or United States Patent No. 5,413,107 ("Oakley"), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over any of the above and United States Patent No. 5,221,176 ("Ishiguro"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections at least for the following:

The references noted above do not teach, nor suggest, "a rotation control operable to rotate said imaging element relative to said control handle **about an axis that is common to both said rotating endoscope shaft and said control handle**," such as recited in claim 15, as amended. Gruner discloses a probe in which the **transducer** at the end of the probe may be rotated. *See, e.g.,* Gruner at column 2, lines 58-60 ("Two buttons 20 and 22 control the clockwise and counter clockwise rotation **of the transducer** at the tip of the probe."). Wray also teaches rotation of a **transducer**. *See, e.g.,* Wray at column 3, lines 57-64 ("As knob 26 is turned in a first direction..., cable 32, attached to pivot arm 17, steers **ultrasonic array unit 12 to turn about a pivot pin 18** in a pivotal first direction...."). King discloses a system in which the distal portion may be deflected. *See, e.g.,* King at column 4, lines 5-10 ("Typically, distal tip portion 14 can be **deflected** for proper positioning of the transducer by bending of portion 24. This deflection is produced by rotation of wheels 20 which are mechanically coupled to portion 24 by cables and the like... which travel through shaft 16"). Konstorum discloses **deflection** of the tip, as well. *See* Konstorum at column 6, lines 6-10 ("The flexible endoscope 20 has a pair of coaxially aligned disc shaped deflection control knobs 38 and 40."). Cooper and Oakley also disclose a **transducer** that may be rotated. *See, e.g,,* Cooper at column 2, lines 50-51 ("A drive system is provided for rotating **the transducer array** 24."); *and* Oakley at column 6, lines 44-48 ("... an ultrasonic transducer at the tip of an articulated probe can be rotated about it own axis....").

None of the cited references, however, teach or suggest, "a rotation control operable to rotate said imaging element relative to said control handle **about an axis that is common to both said rotating endoscope shaft and said control handle**," such as recited in claim 15, as amended. Thus, at least for this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-21 should be in condition for allowance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the present application should be in condition for allowance at least for the reasons discussed above and request reconsideration of the claim rejections and objections. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for the terminal disclaimer ($130) and any other necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the GTC Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

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